



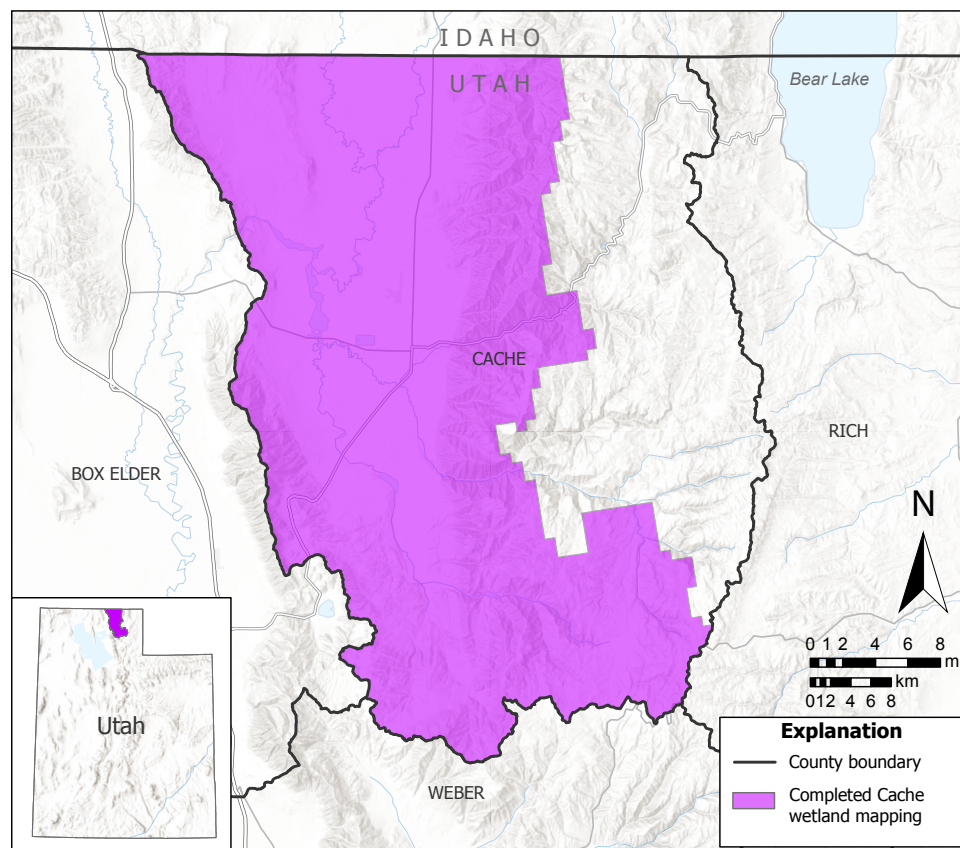
Updated Wetland Mapping in Cache County

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The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) recently updated wetland mapping in Cache County to provide accurate spatial data for responsible urban growth and resource management. The updated mapping identifies wetlands, waterbodies, and riparian areas as part of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) dataset and includes new, more detailed information. The updated mapping can be viewed on the NWI Wetlands Mapper or the Utah Wetlands Mapper (see Additional Resources).



What are Wetlands?

Wetlands are areas where the ground is wet or saturated for some part of the growing season. They have specialized plants and soils which are shaped by the presence of water year after year. Utah's wetlands are unique and may only be wet for a short part of the year. The above photos from the Amalga Barrens show the temporary flooding typical of many of Utah's wetlands.

Why Wetlands Matter

Reduced Flooding: Flooding is one of the costliest natural hazards in Utah. Wetland basins along river floodplains capture and slow floodwaters which reduces flooding damage. Functioning wetlands along the Logan and Blacksmith Fork Rivers help protect flood-prone areas in Cache County.

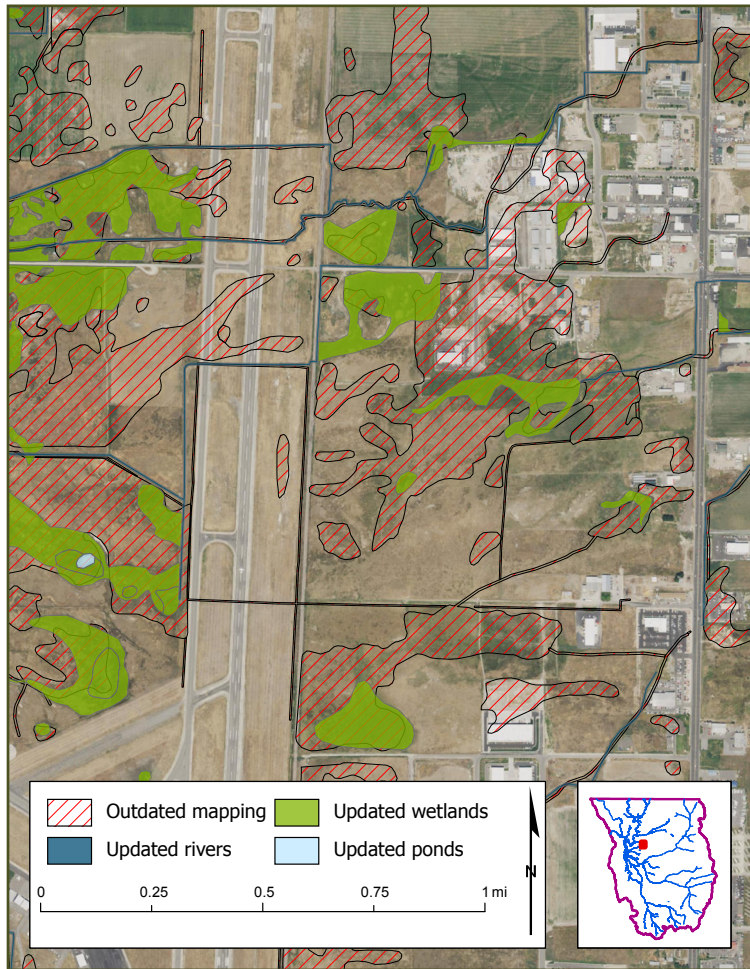
Minimize Erosion: Wetland plants help stabilize riverbanks, reducing erosion. Less erosion means less sediment in our water, which improves water quality. Sediments are also less likely to be deposited onto agricultural fields or into reservoirs if they are trapped in wetland basins instead.

Groundwater Recharge: Some wetlands are "recharge points" where groundwater is replenished. These wetlands elevate water tables and help sustain year-round streamflows, irrigation, and domestic wells throughout Cache County.

Wildlife Habitat: Wetlands provide food, water, and shelter for at least **80 percent** of wildlife in Utah! Wetlands in Cache County support common wildlife species such as elk, deer, and beaver as well as rarer species like the boreal toad. Several areas within Cache County, like the Cutler Reservoir and the Amalga Barrens, provide globally important stopover points for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

Available Information

The updated mapping provides the location of wetlands, lakes, ponds, streams, and riparian areas throughout Cache County and is available in several GIS-ready formats. The mapping categorizes these areas by vegetation type, hydrology, and other characteristics like connectivity between wetlands, geomorphic setting, water source, and water flowpath. The mapping also uses highly specific descriptions to identify if the wetland is artificial, used for stormwater, created by beavers, and much more. Contact the UGS for these additional descriptions and to learn more about how to use the data for your specific needs.



Possible Data Uses

Spatial Review for Permitting: Utah's wetlands are not always obvious. Planning departments can refer to the updated mapping to help identify areas where field delineations are likely needed for Section 404 permits from the Army Corps of Engineers. *

Sensitive Lands: Communities often designate sensitive lands based on the presence of wetlands and modify development restrictions in these lands to protect people and their property. The updated mapping includes wetlands, riparian areas, and stream corridors in a simple format that can be easily added to existing or custom maps.

River Corridor Protections: Cache County and the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) are developing ordinances to protect river corridor habitats and limit flood damage. This dataset provides a more accurate representation of where wetlands, waterbodies, and rivers are located and can be referenced in ordinances and throughout local planning processes.

Watershed Restoration: Wetlands throughout Cache County provide benefits to water quality and quantity and their restoration is often prioritized by funding agencies. The updated mapping could be used to target restoration efforts or identify priority projects.

Recreation Resources: Wetlands are highly valued for recreation space and wildlife viewing opportunities. Parks and recreation agencies can identify these high-value areas with the updated mapping.

*The updated mapping is **NOT** a substitute for a wetland delineation but can help locate areas where wetland delineations may be needed.

This example map shows the difference between the outdated and updated NWI mapping.



Additional Resources

- Visit the Utah Wetlands Mapper here: <https://geology.utah.gov/apps/wetlands/index.html> to view the spatial data and download small sections. You can also download data for the state or by watershed from the NWI Wetlands Mapper here: <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>
- Guide on integrating wetlands with local planning: <https://water.unl.edu/documents/Wetland-Planning-Guidebook-2020.pdf>
- Urban wetland and restoration guide: https://www.nawm.org/pdf_lib/local_wetland_programs/urban_wetlands_protection_and_restoration_guide.pdf
- Do you have a wetland on your property? Things to know: <https://geology.utah.gov/map-pub/survey-notes/is-there-a-wetland-on-your-property-identification-and-next-steps/>
- More wetland information: <https://geology.utah.gov/water/wetlands>

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